

## **City Of Las Vegas Historical Information Overview**

The information on this Web site contains historical election information dating from 1911 to present, with exception of the current election year.

Many of the early records are sparse and we have provided the information exactly as found in our archives. Additionally, candidate names have been taken from the ballots and as the laws have changed, so have the ways in which names appear on a ballot. You may find the same person listed in multiple ways. Please review all similar names when conducting research. For questions, contact the City Clerk's Office at (702) 229-6311.

### **The Election Process:**

Regular city of Las Vegas municipal elections are held in odd-numbered years. Any election not held during the regular election cycle is a Special Election and may stand alone or be part of the State/Federal/County election process.

Municipal elections are OPEN and NONPARTISAN. That means, a properly registered voter of the city of Las Vegas may vote regardless of party affiliation and candidates' political parties do not appear on the ballot.

City Charter provides that if, in the Primary City Election, one candidate for an office receives more than a majority of votes cast, they are declared elected and no General City Election is held. If no candidate for that office receives more than a majority of votes, the names of the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes are placed on the ballot for the General City Election.

If at 5 p.m. on the last day for filing a Declaration of Candidacy, there is only one candidate for any office, that candidate must be declared elected and no Primary or General City Election may be held for that office.

### **Historical Notes:**

The city of Las Vegas held its first General Election on June 11, 1911. For consideration by the voters were the offices of mayor and the four classes of commissioners. Also considered was the first ballot question to adopt the City Charter.

At the commission meeting of June 22, 1911, salaries for the municipal judge, city clerk and city attorney were fixed at \$25 per month.

The first municipal judge for the city of Las Vegas was appointed by the mayor and commissioners on June 22, 1911. The first election for municipal judge was held May 9, 1939. There are currently six municipal judge departments representing the city.

The first city clerk was elected to office at the May 7, 1929 General Election. The last election for city clerk was on May 3, 1949. The first city attorney was elected to office at the May 9, 1939 General Election and the last election for city attorney was May 3, 1977. The city clerk and the city attorney have since held appointed positions.

Initially, the four classes of commissioners managed various departments and functions for the city and operated under a “commission” form of government. Since January 1, 1944, the city of Las Vegas has operated under what is commonly known as a “council/manager” form of government, which was approved by a vote of the people with subsequent Las Vegas City Charter adoption by the legislature.

The city’s first Primary Election was held on May 5, 1957. Prior to this time, only General Elections were held.

Until 1975, the voters of the city at large elected the mayor and four city councilmen. A vote of the people in June of 1973 approved a City Charter amendment dividing the city into four wards. This allowed the mayor to be elected at large and each councilman to be elected by the voters of his or her own ward. The City Charter amendment was subsequently adopted by the legislature with the first election by ward held in 1975. The elected officials chose to use the title "commissioner" until 1983 when a new City Charter approved by the legislature changed their title to "councilman."

A vote of the people in 1999 approved an advisory ballot question to divide the city into six wards. Anticipating a favorable vote, the Nevada Legislature and City Council had previously passed enabling legislation permitting the expansion to six wards. As of January 1, 2000, the change to six wards became effective.

Please contact the City Clerk’s Office at (702) 229-6311 with your historical question.